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ARGENTINA (New materials attached)

There has been no real movement on the human rights front:

1. There has been no mechanism set up to account for the disappeared although the Navy (Massera) reportedly proposed the publication of lists of persons killed in the counterterrorist campaign, ~~the~~ a Presidential spokesman denied the existence of the Navy proposal. Disappearances continue - Mignone, the VP of the Permanent Assembly on Human Rights reported 40 new disappearances in May and 12-15 in June to Warren Christopher. *And see attached BA 5245 LA Plata.*
2. Torture and ill-treatment of prisoners remains a routine matter, which was confirmed by Amb. Castro in a meeting with PD July 10. Between the end of 1977 and May 1978, ICRC delegates visited 3,400 detainees in 16 locations. Their ~~xxxx~~ major concerns are physical abuse of political prisoners, disappearances of prisoners at the time of release and guard brutality during inter-prison transfers.
3. Continuing arrests. From Jan -May 1978, 297 were added to PEN and 275 released: more added than released. ~~xxxx~~ From May 21-June 21, 56 were released and 25 detained. Arrests in ~~any~~ any event continue.
4. About 3400 remain in PEN detention. There are ~~xm~~ reports that the GOA is considering a decree which would assign some fixed prison terms, turn ~~over~~ others over to the jurisdiction of the criminal courts, and free others. But there is no movement yet.
5. Refusal to come to terms with IAHRG still remains although the latest reports say the GOA is trying to do so.
6. Right of Option: still small. From Jan-June - 27 were allowed to leave ; From June 1-23, another 11.
7. Special Interest Cases - there is some movement - ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ in addition to what is reported to Christopher committee, Perez Esquivel, leader of Paz y Justicia and Nobel Peace Nominee, was placed on parole; the GOA says Liliana Deutsch will be released shortly.
8. Religious Groups - There seems less harassment: members of the Knights of Fire (CAHF) were released from prison; however the new registration law and refusal to accept registration from Jehovah's Witnesses and other groups is creating difficulties.

The EMBASSY IS WAITING UNTIL AFTER THE WORLD CUP TO MAKE AN ANALYSIS OF HUMAN RIGHTS; THE GAMES HAVE ENDED, BUT NO ANALYSIS HAS AS YET BEEN FORTHCOMING.

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

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